

## CLUSTER AREA: PUBLIC AWARENESS AND CHILD FIND

### Component CC.1:

Does the implementation of a comprehensive, coordinated Child Find system result in the identification, evaluation and assessment of all eligible infants and toddlers?

#### Data Sources:

- SPOE Data Collection System
- Quarterly Statewide Profile Reports
- Quarterly County Profile Reports
- LPCC and SPOE Request for Funds
- State Reported Data—Part C, IDEA Website: [www.ideadata.org](http://www.ideadata.org)
- NECTAS Notes: State and Jurisdictional Eligibility Definitions for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities under IDEA
- Census data
- Healthy Families Screening Data
- How to Get Help Brochure
- Parent Rights Brochure
- ICC Annual Reports
- KIDSteps Magazines
- Locally-produced brochures and materials
- Indiana's Integrated Services for Children with Special Health Care Needs SPRANS Grant Report 1997-2002
- First Steps Publications Order Form
- Spanish Brochures
- Indiana Combined Enrollment Form
- LPCC Request for Funds, Child Find/Public Awareness Section
- CRO Claims Payment Data

**Performance Level:** Exceeds Expectations

#### Conclusions:

- Indiana leads the country with the broadest eligibility definition for the Part C system. Infants and toddlers are eligible for First Steps who experience
  - \* a 20% delay in one developmental domain;
  - \* a 15% delay in two or more developmental domains;
  - \* a medical diagnosis that has a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay; or
  - \* any single biological risk factor that has a high probability of leading to a developmental delay.
- As a result of our broad eligibility, significant portions of the birth to three populations are eligible for early intervention services and supports. Indiana has chosen to use the percentage of low birth weight babies born in the year as its

prevalence rate. The current statewide average for low birth weight is 7.8%. During SFY 2001, First Steps served 7.18% of Indiana's 0-3 population.

- Indiana's average age of a child at the time of referral is 13.9 months.
- The Lead Agency utilizes data from state and national resources to monitor child find activities. A quarterly county profile report is produced and posted on the First Steps website. These county reports provide current county information compared to state data and tracks a variety of data components to ensure that all populations are being identified. Counties use this information to monitor their activity and to track their progress as compared to statewide trends or benchmarks.
- First Steps during SFY 2001 served 18,341 children. Data from the statewide profile quarterly report indicate that the percentage of children served by race closely reflects the racial demographics of the state. While the urban counties still struggle to ensure appropriate levels of participation by all races, progress has been made and remains a priority for those counties.
- The lead agency has contracted with a firm for the past eight years that has produced child find and public awareness materials in a variety of languages and formats that are made available at time and material cost to the local counties. The bold graphics and bright colors have created a public "identity" for First Steps. First Steps also publishes a quarterly magazine called KIDSteps. The lead article in each issue is now being printed in both English and Spanish.
- In addition to the state public awareness materials, most counties have developed additional materials that reflect the culture and diversity of their individual counties. Local Planning and Coordinating Councils are responsible for specific child find activities at the local level in each county. Their action plan for public awareness and child find activities are a required component of the request for funds. (RFF) submitted annually. The success of these plans can be documented by the significant growth in the First Steps population over the last four years.
- Implementation of legislation requiring newborn hearing screens has greatly facilitated referral of newborns into the system. Training to First Steps staff have been conducted with Audiologists, participating hospitals and all Service Coordinators. Referral forms have been developed to assist in the appropriate referral.

**Strategies:**

- Continued education of local physicians utilizing materials as developed through the SPRANS initiative.
- Continued collaboration with the Department of Health in facilitating referrals from newborn hearing screens, CSHCS and other programs. Specific attention will be given to increasing education of appropriate referrals and screening procedures.
- Increased collaboration with Healthy Families, Head Start and other programs providing services to young children.
- The use of the county profile report will continue to be emphasized. Counties will be provided with additional statistical information in which to measure their success. Emphasis will be provided in the monitoring of the numbers of children served based on county representation and make-up.
- Implement outcome based contracting with local planning and coordinating council, which outline goals that represent appropriate numbers of children to be served.

## INDICATOR ANALYSIS

### Performance Indicator CC.1 A:

Utilization of data from existing State and Federal Child Find resources (e.g. Maternal and Child Health, SSI etc.) increases.

#### Data Sources:

- SPOE Data Collection System
- Quarterly Statewide and County Profile Reports
- Census Data
- NECTAS Notes: State and Jurisdictional Eligibility Definitions for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities under IDEA

#### Conclusions:

- Indiana leads the country with the broadest eligibility definition for the Part C system. Infants and toddlers are eligible for First Steps who experience
  - \* a 20% delay in one developmental domain;
  - \* a 15% delay in two or more developmental domains;
  - \* a medical diagnosis that has a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay; or
  - \* any single biological risk factor that has a high probability of leading to a developmental delay.
- As a result of our broad eligibility, significant portions of the birth to three populations are eligible for early intervention services and supports. Indiana has chosen to use the percentage of low birth weight babies born in the year as its prevalence rate. The current statewide average for low birth weight is 7.8%. During SFY 2001, First Steps served 7.18% of Indiana's 0-3 population.
- Indiana's average age of a child at the time of referral is 13.9 months.
- The Lead Agency monitors individual counties that have diverse populations to ensure that appropriate child find activities are conducted to identify those populations. There is significant racial disparity in the low birth weight rate.
- The Lead Agency utilizes data from state and national resources to monitor child find activities. A quarterly county profile report is produced and posted on the First Steps website. These county reports provide current county information compared to state data and tracks a variety of data components to ensure that all populations are being identified. Counties use this information to monitor their activity and to track their progress as compared to statewide trends or benchmarks.
- Indiana utilizes a combined enrollment form upon entering the First Steps program. This "intake form" is also utilized by CSHCS, MCH, and Hoosier

Healthwise. This commonality allows for consistent collection of data as well as reducing duplication.

- Based on the aggregate data for the last fiscal year, Indiana is presently serving 7.18% of the birth to three populations. The national average is 1.78%. Indiana's population served has increased on an annual basis at an average rate of 20%.

**Strategies:**

- The use of the county profile report will continue to be emphasized. Counties will be provided with additional statistical information in which to measure their success.
- The Lead Agency will monitor national trends and information in which to aid Indiana in successfully measuring progress.

**Performance Indicator:**

Established linkages among the needs of the identified populations, the kinds of materials developed, and the dissemination activities employed increase.

**Data Sources:**

- County Profile Reports
- How to Get Help Brochure
- Parent Rights Brochure
- ICC Annual Reports
- KIDSteps Magazines
- Locally-produced brochures and materials
- SPOE and LPCC Request for Funds

**Conclusions:**

- The lead agency has contracted with a firm for the past eight years that has produced child find and public awareness materials in a variety of languages and formats that are made available at time and material cost to the local counties. The bold graphics and bright colors have created a public “identity” for First Steps. First Steps also publishes a quarterly magazine called KIDSteps. The lead article in each issue is now being printed in both English and Spanish.
- In addition to the state public awareness materials, most counties have developed additional materials that reflect the culture and diversity of their individual counties. Local Planning and Coordinating Councils are responsible for specific child find activities at the local level in each county. Their action plan for public awareness and child find activities are a required component of the request for funds. (RFF) submitted annually. The success of these plans can be documented by the significant growth in the First Steps population over the last four years.
- First Steps during SFY 2001 served 18,341 children. Data from the statewide profile quarterly report indicate that the percentage of children served by race closely reflects the racial demographics of the state. Lake and Marion County received funding last year through the Friendly Access program for an intake coordinator whose specific responsibility was to reach the under-served population in each county. While ensuring appropriate levels of participation by all races remains a priority for those counties, the data does not reflect a significant change in their levels of participation by race.
- Based on the aggregate data for the last fiscal year, Indiana is presently serving 7.18% of the birth to three populations. The national average is 1.78%. Indiana’s population served has increased on an annual basis at an average rate of 20%.

**Strategies:**

- Local First Steps councils will be strongly encouraged to develop linkages with local organizations which represent the diverse populations that make-up the county. Emphasis of this goal will be written into the request for funds application for the councils.
- Development of a committee addressing “culturally competent practices” will assist in the identification of recommended changes.
- Assess the need to have materials translated into other languages. Based on assessment information provide materials as appropriate.

**Performance Indicator:**

Participation of primary referral sources in the early identification and referral process (including referral for appropriate evaluation) increases.

**Data Sources:**

- SPOE Data Collection System
- Indiana's Integrated Services for Children with Special Health Care Needs SPRANS Grant Report 1997-2002
- State Reported Data—Part C, IDEA Website: [www.ideadata.org](http://www.ideadata.org)

**Conclusions:**

- Data indicates that for SFY 2001, 23 separate and distinct referral sources were identified. Referral sources include a variety of social service agencies, physicians, hospitals and other medical providers, mental health providers, friends, family members and other sources.
- From 1997 to 2000, NICU/Hospital referrals increased from 13% to 21% of total referrals to First Steps. For that same time period, physician referrals increased from 12% to 20% of total referrals.
- Healthy Families Indiana screens 50% of all newborn babies in the state and subsequently refers infants who may qualify for First Steps to the program. As this program strives for screening of 100% of all births, First Steps will work closely with Healthy Families on the appropriate referral procedures. Data shows that Healthy Families was the primary referral source for 300 First Steps children last fiscal year.
- During public forums, in response to the question, "Are there any barriers to the process of referring infants and toddlers to the Early Intervention system, or in obtaining evaluations?" 32 persons indicated that physicians were not making referrals as there continued to be a "wait and see" attitude.
- Implementation of legislation requiring newborn hearing screens has greatly facilitated referral of newborns into the system. Training to First Steps staff was conducted with Audiologists, participating hospitals and all Service Coordinators. Referral forms have been developed to assist in the appropriate referral.
- Indiana's average age of a child at time of referral is 13.9 months.

**Strategies:**

- Increase collaboration and education at the state and local level on referral practices to the early intervention program from Healthy Families.
- Continued education of local physicians utilizing materials as developed through the SPRANS initiative.



## Performance Indicator:

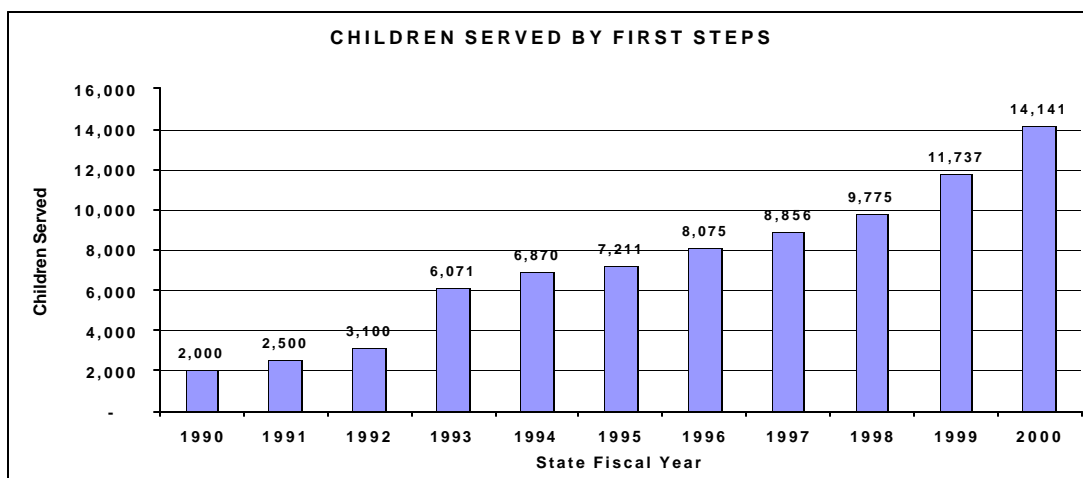
Is the percentage of infants and toddlers determined eligible for Part C comparable to State and national demographic data for the percentage of infants and toddlers with developmental delays?

## Data Sources:

- SPOE Data Collection System
- State Reported Data—Part C, IDEA Website: [www.ideadata.org](http://www.ideadata.org)

## Conclusions:

- Based on the aggregate data for the last fiscal year, Indiana is presently serving 7.18% of the birth to three populations. The national average is 1.78%. Indiana's population served has increased on an annual basis at an average rate of 20%.



- Hawaii and Massachusetts are the two states with eligibility criteria most similar to Indiana's. According to the most recent data available (December 1999), Hawaii was serving 6.41% of their 0-3 population and Massachusetts was serving 4.68%. During this time period Indiana was serving 2.92% of the 0-3 population, however the current percentage is 7.18%.

**Performance Indicator:**

Is the percentage of eligible infants with disabilities under the age of one that are receiving Part C services comparable with national and state prevalence data.

**Data Sources:**

- SPOE Data Collection System
- Census Data
- State Reported Data—Part C, IDEA Website: [www.ideadata.org](http://www.ideadata.org)

**Conclusions:**

- The SPOE data collection system indicates that state fiscal year 2001, 6.83% of Indiana's population under 1 year old was served by First Steps.
- According to the most recent data available (December 1999), Hawaii served 2.07% of their 0-1 population and Massachusetts served 0.8%. For that same time period, Indiana served 0.61%.